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TO: EXAMINER PARVEEN (ART UNIT 2182)

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Re: SERIAL NO. 09/546,089

EXAMINER PARVEEN:

ATTACHED IS THE REPLY. ^{POSTCARD}
STAMPED RECEIVED BY THE OIPE 6/12/03.
PLS. CALL w/ ANY QUESTIONS.

Regards,
Heather Holmes
PARALEGAL

Applicant(s) David Wehrle, et al. Docket No. 00AB078/ALBRP180US
 Serial No. 09/546,089 Filing Date 4/10/00 Atty(s) HSA
 Title POINTBUS ARCHITECTURE AND AUTOMATIC SEQUENTIAL...
 Mailed 6/9/03 Due Date 6/9/03 Exp. Mail No. _____

Patent Application (New CON DIV CIP CPA PCT Provisional)
 Transmittal/Request Declaration/POA Issue Fee Transmittal
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 Sheets of Drawings Small Entity Statement Ltr. Off. Draftsman
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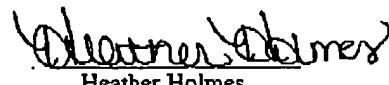
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PATENT

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Date: 6/9/03

Heather Holmes

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicant: David S. Wehrle, *et al.*

Examiner: Rehana Perven

Serial No: 09/546,089

Art Unit: 2182

Filing Date: April 10, 2000

Title: POINTBUS ARCHITECTURE AND AUTOMATIC SEQUENTIAL
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REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 7, 2003

Dear Sir:

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments below.

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Clean Version of All Pending Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A system for automatically configuring I/O devices, comprising:
means for determining physical locations of the I/O devices with respect to one another; and
means for assigning node addresses to each I/O device, each assigned node address corresponding to the physical location of the respective I/O devices.
2. (Withdrawn) A system for automatically configuring I/O devices, comprising:
a plurality of I/O devices operatively coupled to each other;
a sub-system for determining physical locations of the I/O devices with respect to one another, the sub-system assigning node addresses to each I/O device – each assigned node address corresponding to the physical location of the respective I/O devices.
3. (Withdrawn) A method for automatically configuring I/O devices, comprising the steps of:
determining physical locations of the I/O devices with respect to one another; and
assigning node addresses to each I/O device, each assigned node address corresponding to the physical location of the respective I/O devices.
4. (Previously Amended) An adaptable control system for providing network communications, comprising:
a physical media for providing communications to at least one I/O module, wherein the physical media includes a first protocol and a second protocol, the first protocol to enable the at least one I/O module to receive the network communications and the second protocol to provide the network communications to the at least one enabled I/O module.
5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the at least one I/O module enables at least one other I/O module to form an I/O group via the first protocol.

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6. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the second protocol provides at least one of DeviceNet, EtherNet and ControlNet network communications.

7. (Original) The system of claim 4 further comprising an interface for providing a pass-thru for the network communications.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the interface provides a DC/DC converter for supplying I/O power and enabling the at least one other I/O module.

9. (Original) The system of claim 4 further comprising an adapter for establishing network communications.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the adapter includes at least one processor for enabling the at least one I/O module.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the adapter includes an Offlink Connection Manager (OCM) object, a node list, and an I/O data table.

12. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the at least one I/O module includes a processor for receiving the first protocol as an input and providing the first protocol as an output.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for providing an adaptable control system, comprising the steps of:

receiving network communications *via* an interface;
sequentially enabling at least one I/O module to receive the network communications from the interface; and
enabling at least one other I/O module to form an I/O group.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:
using a PointBus input to enable a PointBus output to initiate a network connection.

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15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:
waiting for the PointBus input;
determining a network address for the at least one I/O module; and
enabling the at least one other I/O module to receive a network address after
determining the network address for the at least one I/O module.

16. (Withdrawn) An adaptable control system, comprising:
means for receiving network communications;
means for sequentially enabling at least one I/O module to receive the network
communications; and
means for enabling at least one other I/O module to receive a network address
after determining the network address for the at least one I/O module.

17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16 further comprising: means for using a
PointBus input to enable a PointBus output to initiate a network connection.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the subject application, and claims 4-12 are presently under consideration – a clean version of these claims is found at pages 2-3. Applicants' representative acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner indicating claims 5 and 8 as being allowable if recast in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is believed such amendments are not necessary in view of the below-noted deficiencies of the cited references *vis a vis* the claimed invention. However, applicants' representative reserves the option to amend such claims into independent form at a later date, if necessary. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 4, 7, 9, 10 and 12 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 4, 7, 9, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Zegelin (US 6,484,216). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Zegelin does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

For a prior art reference to anticipate, 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that "each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 USPQ2d 1949, 1950 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (quoting *Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

As recited in independent claim 4, the subject invention relates to an adaptable control system, comprising a physical media for providing communications to at least one I/O module, wherein the physical media includes a first protocol and a second protocol, *the first protocol to enable the at least one I/O module to receive the network communications and the second protocol to provide the network communications to the at least one enabled I/O module.*

Zegelin does not teach or suggest the first protocol to enable the at least one I/O module to receive network communications. Rather, Zegelin discloses a method of switching between communication protocols. Zegelin teaches disabling a communications protocol and switching to a different communications protocol by means of a disabling control signal that is illegal

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under the PCMCIA protocol. (C.7 L.19-32). In contrast, applicants' claimed invention enables at least one I/O module utilizing a point protocol that *facilitates a standard network communication via a sequentially ordered enablement process*.

Additionally, Zegelin does not teach or suggest a system wherein more than one I/O module may be enabled. Conversely, the claimed invention *permits enabling of more than one I/O module* by means of a PointBus architecture wherein modules may be sequentially enabled from an adjacent module.

Furthermore, Zegelin does not teach a physical media for providing communications to at least one I/O module, wherein the *physical media includes a first protocol and a second protocol* as in applicants' claimed invention. In the subject application as shown in Fig. 6, the described physical media is within the PointBus architecture. Thus, both the first and second protocol are employed either between the network interface and the I/O module or between an initial I/O module and a subsequent I/O module. On the other hand, in Zegelin, the interface adapter receives an illegal signal from a computer and interprets it as a command to switch to another communications protocol. (C.5 L.11-15). Thus, only a second protocol (network communications protocol) is employed in the physical media between the network interface and the I/O module.

In view of at least the above, it is readily apparent that Zegelin does anticipate the subject invention as recited in independent claim 4 (and claims 7, 9, 10, and 12 which depend therefrom). This rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 6 and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zegelin in view of Burke *et al.* (US 6,052,382). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Burke *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Zegelin with respect to independent claim 4 (which claims 6 and 11 directly or indirectly depend from). In particular, Burke *et al.* does not teach or suggest *a first protocol for enabling an I/O module and a second protocol to provide network communication to the enabled I/O module*. Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claims 6 and 11 is not

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obvious over the combination of Zegelin and Burke *et al.* Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

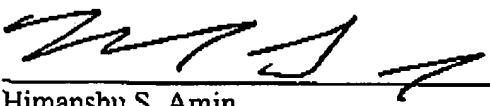
The present application is believed to be condition for allowance in view of the above amendments and comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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